

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-11 ORM-02 NEA-10 SAJ-01

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P R 041745Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7518

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USNMR SHAPE

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SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, FR

SUBJECT: PLYUSHCH PRESS CONFERENCE ON EVE PCF PARTY
CONGRESS

1. WHETHER BY COINCIDENCE, OR, AS L'HUMANITE'S
CORRESPONDENT SUGGESTED, BY DESIGN, RECENTLY RELEASED
SOVIET MATHEMATICIAN PLYUSHCH GAVE HIS FIRST, MUCH-
HERALDED PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE EVE OF THE PCF'S PARTY
CONGRESS IN PARIS FEB 3.

2. PLYUSHCH WAS BY ALL ACCOUNTS SELF-POSSESSED AND IN
FULL CONTROL OF HIS FACULTIES, ALTHOUGH STILL VISIBLY
FATIGUED. AS A RESULT HIS DEVASTATINGLY CLEAR ACCOUNT
OF HORRORS AND HUMILIATIONS SUFFERED BY HIMSELF AND
OTHERS NAMED IN A SOVIET PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, MADE
EVEN GREATER IMPACT ON FRENCH AND, WE ASSUME, ON WORLD
PRESS.

3. MOREOVER, PLYUSHCH ALSO PUT DIRECTLY TO THE PCF THE
ISSUE OF SOVIET INFRINGEMENTS ON BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS
BOTH IN LETTER APPEALING FOR HELP FOR MUSTAPHA DJEMILEV
AND OTHER DETAINEES AND IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS. HE
THANKED PCF FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS RELEASE. HE
ACKNOWLEDGED HIMSELF AS CONTINUING TO BE A CONVINCED
COMMUNIST. HOWEVER, HE ALSO ASKED FRENCH, AS WELL AS
UK AND ITALIAN PARTIES, WHETHER THEY ARE INDEED READY
TO FOLLOW UP THE WORK OF THE CZECH PARTY "TO REHABI-
LITATE THE COMMUNIST IDEAL AND TO OBLIGE THE SOVIET
PARTY TO CHOOSE BETWEEN MAO-STALINISM AND COMMUNISM OF
A HUMAN SORT." "I HOPE," HE CONCLUDED, "THAT THESE
PARTIES WILL ENTER INTO ACTIVE BATTLE." COMING ON EVE
PCF CONGRESS THIS CHALLENGE REVERBERATED IN NON-COMMU-
NIST PRESS COMMENTARY. "FIGARO" AND A NUMBER OF OTHERS
THOUGHT THAT IT WAS PROBABLY MORE THAN THE PCF COULD
MANAGE.

4. OPENING OF PCF CONGRESS WAS ALSO MARKED BY OTHER
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EFFORTS EXPLOIT PCF'S CLAIMED NEW WILLINGNESS TO GO TO
BAT FOR VICTIMS OF SOVIET PERSECUTION. THUS, THE
EXTREME LEFT-WING PAPER "LIBERATION," WHICH HAD
RECENTLY PUBLISHED THE LIST OF ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE
CIA IN PARIS, NOW CAME FORWARD WITH ITS LIST OF THIRTY
SOVIET CITIZENS DETAINED IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS FOR
POLITICAL REASONS. IN ADDITION VARIOUS LETTERS WERE
ADDRESSED TO THE PCF, BESIDES THOSE OF PLYUSHCH AND THE

SOVIET MATHEMATICIAN LEVITCH (THUS FAR UNACKNOWLEDGED
BY L'HUMANITE) ASKING FOR HELP ON BEHALF OF PERSONS AND
CAUSES IN THE USSR.

5. COMMENT: AGAINST BACKGROUND OF ALREADY SOMBER PRESS
ATMOSPHERE ON EAST-WEST ISSUES, NOTABLY BECAUSE OF
ANGOLA, PLYUSHCH ADDED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE POIGNANCY
AND PROFOUND AMBIGUITY OF THE SETTING IN WHICH PCF WILL
ATTEMPT TO PROVE TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE THE DEPTH AND
SINCERITY OF ITS RECENT "CONVERSION" TO DEMOCRACY AND
HUMAN LIBERTIES. WE ARE AIR-POUCHING LE MONDE TEXT OF
PLYUSHCH'S PRESS CONFERENCE AS WELL AS "LIBERATION"
ARTICLE TO EMBASSY MOSCOW AND DEPARTMENT.
RUSH

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